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NAMB missionaries are commissioned

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — It's not often that God speaks through the guy in the next shower stall, but that's exactly what Charif Haddad said happened to him.

Haddad, pastor of a new church among people of Middle Eastern descent in Dearborn, Mich., was one of 38 new North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries commissioned Feb. 9 at Great Hills Church in Austin, Texas.

In a personal testimony during the service, Haddad shared how he struggled with his call to ministry as a teenager in his native Lebanon. During a shower after a soccer game one day, he found himself thinking of all the reasons he couldn't obey: He had a family to raise, a plan to

become an engineer, and the obstacles were just too great.

Then his friend in the next stall, a non-Christian who had not heard his silent

prayers, shouted out loud: "What is impossible to man is possible to God."

"It made the hair on my neck stand up," Haddad said. "I said, 'Sam, where did those words come from?' He said, 'I don't know. They just came to mind, so I blurted them out.'"

Obedience to God's call was central to the commissioning message of NAMB President Robert E. Reccord. He shared a three-part action plan for the Christian life that is becoming one of the board's central messages: "Answer his call, tell his story, and change your world."

"When you answer his call, you will inevitably have the opportunity to tell his story," Reccord said, "and when you unapologetically do that, you will change your world."

The Christian journey can be seen as an adventure, something that involves risk — and potentially tremendous joy and excitement, Reccord said. "What would your life be like if there

were no adventure in it?" he asked. "What would your life be like if there weren't any risk involved in it? Would you ever have learned how to walk?"

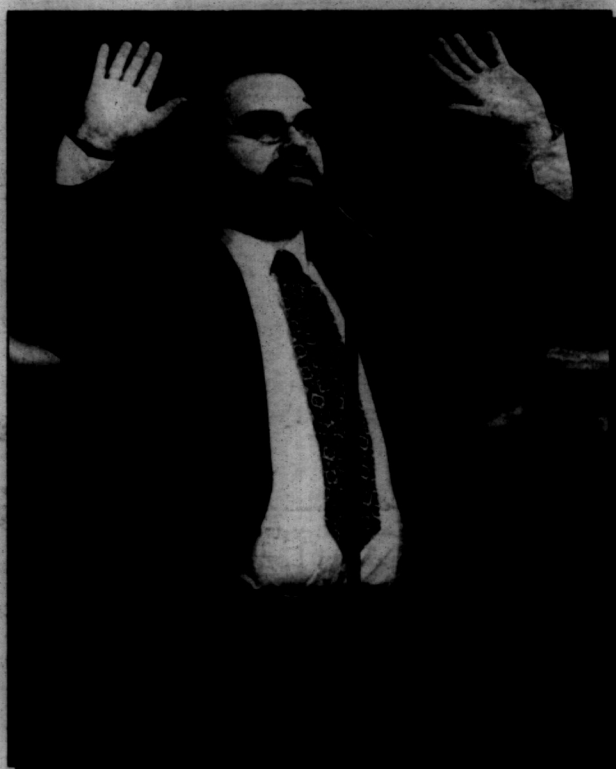
He noted the bravery of the Columbia space shuttle crew, who knew that astronauts are known as "explorers who blast into the future on an orange ball of flame to chart the unknown."

"Jesus Christ wants you to be a follower who blasts into the future on a flame of the Holy Spirit to chart the unknown, where you have never been before," the NAMB president said.

"Are you ready? Because if you aren't, you're going to miss the great things in life he has for you," Reccord pointed out.



PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES — The congregation of Great Hills Church in Austin, Texas, prayed for 38 North American Mission Board missionaries during their Feb. 9 commissioning service. The prayer was led by Randy Wood, personnel deployment director for NAMB. (BP photo by James Dotson)



LIFE CHANGING SHOWER — Charif Haddad, a church planter in Dearborn, Mich., and native of Lebanon, shares how God called him to be a pastor while taking a shower, during the commissioning service for 38 new North American Mission Board missionaries in Austin, Texas. (BP photo by James Dotson)

Truthquest picks up national broadcasters' award

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists' TruthQuest: California teen reality series received a first-place People's Choice Award February 9 from the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) TV Committee during the NRB's annual meeting in Nashville.

The 13-week series, which premiered in October, currently is in its second run on FamilyNet Television, the cable/broadcast arm of the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Katie Royals, a member of First Church, Jackson, was a member of the TruthQuest team.

TruthQuest: California was jointly produced by Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) news service; FamilyNet; and the B&H Publishing Group of LifeWay Christian Resources, which publishes the TruthQuest line of student discipleship resources.

NAMB's multi-city summer missions outreach World Changers also assisted as a TruthQuest series sponsor.

Martin Coleman, FamilyNet vice president of programming and TruthQuest's executive producer, said, "The fact that this show was recognized by our peers in religious broadcasting is affirmation that God has honored our efforts to shine a light in the midst of this popular genre of reality television."

"Our show begins with the premise, 'We're telling the truth': that God is truth and His Word is reliable."

Todd Starnes, TruthQuest's creator and a native of Southaven, said, "The TruthQuest: California team did an incredible job producing this ground-breaking series. This award recognizes the countless hours of creative energy resulting in one of the best reality-based television programs on television."

Starnes recently became director of university communications at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., after serving as Baptist Press' assistant editor since 2000.



AWARD WINNERS — TruthQuest: California, a 13-part series in which 12 evangelical teens put their faith to the test, has received a People's Choice Award from the National Religious Broadcasters' TV Committee. Katie Royals (front row, third from left), a member of First Church, Jackson, was part of the TruthQuest team. (BP photo)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

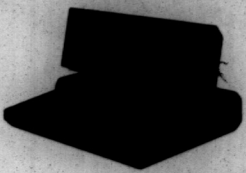
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Time to go slow

The first time many of us heard of cloning was in the plot of *The Boys from Brazil*, a 1978 movie based on the best-selling book of the same name by Ira Levin. Starring Gregory Peck and Laurence Olivier, the movie was a gripping tale involving the attempted cloning of Adolf Hitler by Nazi sympathizers who escaped to South America at the close of World War II.

Twenty-five years ago, *The Boys from Brazil* seemed a fantastic story, but not much more. Cloning was a concept that had little concrete scientific foundation, even in that relatively advanced era of discovery. It was just too far out, most of us thought. The idea made for a great movie, though.

That was then. This is now. Cloning and its related medical procedures have exploded on to the medical and scientific worlds. The science of cloning was already moving at light speed when Dolly was born on July 5, 1996.

Dolly was a sheep, the first mammal and most complex life form ever cloned. Scotland's Roslin Institute, where Dolly was reproduced from a lone breast cell of an adult ewe, became known around the world. Talk quickly turned to the cloning of humans. Suddenly, the plot of *The Boys from Brazil* didn't seem so far-fetched.

Most old hands could have guessed what would come next. Almost as if on cue, a heretofore unknown group announced that they had indeed cloned a human being. Clonaid, a subsidiary company of an alien-worshipping religious cult, claims to have cloned two humans — one in Florida and one in Denmark — but has failed on its promises to bring forth the babies for genetic testing.

Never mind, said the promoters of this brave new world. It's too late to stop the cloning juggernaut, anyway.

That was then. This is now. Dolly was euthanized on February 14, after a lifetime of ailments and the recent discovery that she had a terminal lung disease. (Dolly was

six years old; the typical lifespan of a healthy sheep is about 12 years.) She will be stuffed, mounted, and displayed in Scotland's National Museum.

During the course of Dolly's brief life, researchers discovered that she was aging much faster than normal sheep produced the old-fashioned way. She developed severe arthritis as a youngster and also endured a number of other disorders. The news media reports at the time of her death also reminded us that many hundreds of cloning efforts at the Roslin Institute failed before Dolly was born, resulting in horrific defects and inexplicable problems.

So cloning is not all it's cracked up to be, and the potential hazards of human cloning are probably too risky at the present time. At least, that's what the U.S. House of Representatives believes.

The House's Judiciary Committee on February 12 forwarded legislation to the full House that would outlaw human cloning. The Human Cloning Prohibition Act, HR 534, is expected to be taken up shortly after the House reconvenes on February 25. A similar bill passed the House last year but was never brought up in the U.S. Senate.

Great Britain is apparently moving in the same direction. Richard Gardner, a professor of zoology at Oxford University and chair of the Royal Society working group on stem cell research, wants to know if Dolly's death was brought on by the circumstances of her cloning.

"If there is a link, it will provide further evidence of the dangers inherent in repro-

"AND DEAR LORD, YOU NEED TO CHECK ON CONDITIONS BACK IN YOUR HOMETOWN. IN FACT, THE ENTIRE HOLY LAND COULD USE YOUR ATTENTION."



ductive cloning and the irresponsibility of anybody who is trying to extend such work to humans," he told Associated Press.

In other words, it's time to go slow on cloning. One needn't be an Oxford professor to understand the wisdom of that approach.

... In this space in the issue of January 13, an erroneous statement was made that the radio show, *Richard Land Live!*, is funded by the Cooperative Program (CP). In fact, *Richard Land Live!* is fully funded by Salem Communications broadcast network and does not receive any support from CP. The Baptist Record regrets the error.

GUEST OPINION:

Jesus, the pacifist?

By Douglas Baker
Washington, D.C.

he's an absolute pacifist?" Journalism as theology aside, was Jesus a pacifist?

Holy Scripture teaches that Jesus did not ultimately seek to bring about a better version of a fallen world, but to inaugurate a new kingdom where the present heavens and earth would be re-made with no trace of sin at the end of time. The nations will be his inheritance as all mankind bows to his authority. The drama of history marches on to bring to fulfillment all Christ accomplished in his life, death and resurrection.

Jesus achieved his goal through unconventional war. He came not to battle the visible pawns of power — the governmental leaders and tyrants of his time or ours — but the invisible

principalities and powers of the world as presided over by Satan. Undoing the impact of mankind's fall in the Garden of Eden demanded that he destroy not the fruit but the root of sin. Spiritual force had to be used to cast out sinful power — the sole source of all earthly tyranny, murder, and war.

In the proper light, Jesus is seen as a mighty warrior who stopped at nothing to conquer evil. Jesus is revolutionary.

To suppose that this present age understands Jesus in ways contrary to John the Baptist and the apostles Paul and Peter is to think that eyewitnesses to Christ's words and actions are less reliable than the opinions of modern theologians. C.S. Lewis said, "If Our Lord's words are taken in the unqualified sense

which the Pacifist demands, we shall then be forced to the conclusion that Christ's true meaning, concealed from those who lived in the same time and spoke the same language, and whom he himself chose to be his messengers to the world, has at last been discovered in our own time."

The very idea that Jesus was not a pacifist goes against the grain of prevailing liberal myths. He did instruct his followers to live peacefully with one another without vengeance, for God has delegated the power of the sword to the state as his authorized agent against the evil powers of the age. Yet many modern theologians and pastors tell the story of evil as the saga of vast impersonal forces at work with only the church to speak up for peace. War, a remnant of the fall, will remain constant in human existence until the end.

As tragic and horrible as war is, those ordering or involved in conflict with a moral justification can be assured that God is not against them.

Baker is a writer and columnist for Baptist Press who lives and works in Washington, D.C. He is a member of Capitol Hill Church.

Robinson: evangelism root of spiritual gifts

GARLAND, Texas (BP) — Although evangelism is sometimes thought to be a spiritual gift, it actually underlies every spiritual gift that God bestows on a person, notes Southern Baptist evangelism leader and biblical scholar Darrell W. Robinson.

Every spiritual gift — be it one of service, signs or support — is designed to help fulfill the Great Commission through individual people, Robinson writes in a new book, *Incredibly Gifted: A Fresh, Biblical Look at Spiritual Gifts*, recently released by Hannibal Books.

For example, Robinson describes the gift of exhortation (encouragement) as one that strongly prepares a person for effective personal witnessing. Someone who is an encourager is usually talkative, enthusiastic and knows how to reach out to others in a positive way. A person's gift of encouraging others in a practical way can be used powerfully to share Jesus with the lost.

INTENTIONALLY WITNESS

Someone with the gift of mercy, through his or her sensitivity to others, can be alert to the spiritual condition of the lost as well as feeling for their physical needs, Robinson writes. He contends that each person, regardless of his or her gift, can be taught how to intentionally witness so that he or she can promptly respond to open doors to share Christ.

Many ministries of the church sometimes go begging for helpers because believers feel incapable and fail to rely

on God to supply whatever spiritual gift is needed for that assignment, Robinson writes. Many people flock to take a



Robinson

"spiritual gift inventory" or "spiritual gift assessment" to help identify the gift or gifts God has given them, so that they can adequately serve other members of the body of Christ, he recounts. "These sometimes lead to abuse when people overemphasize their gift or refuse to meet a need because they don't have a particular gift," he notes. "That approach then becomes a barrier to what God wants to do through us."

Robinson, a former pastor of churches in Texas, Kansas, and Alabama and formerly an executive with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (now North American Mission Board), serves as president of Total Church Life Ministries, Inc., and is on the staff of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga.

OBEDIENCE

In the book, Robinson tells the story of a church member named Jean, whose pastor asked her to start a ministry to senior adults and home-bound persons.

Jean responded, "I am not a leader! I do not have that gift." The pastor replied, "I believe you can do it and I will help you. This is a real need within our church."

The pastor kept his word, and Jean's program became a flourishing ministry. Jean found herself using gifts she did not know she possessed: administration and leadership, mercy, giving, hospitality, exhortation, and teaching to meet the needs she observed.

Jean discovered multiple gifts by seeing a need and obeying Christ to help meet it. "Obedience is the key," Robinson writes. "To simply step out in faith and be available and obey Christ was the critical factor."

EXCESSES

Today's elevated emphasis on "sign gifts" has led to many excesses, misunderstandings and even rejection of the idea of spiritual gifts by some, Robinson writes. "Whenever the term 'spiritual gifts' is used, many think of the excesses they have observed through the emphasis on sign gifts. Others are caught up in the desire for sensational experiences. Consequently the utilization of spiritual gifts in our ordinary, everyday lives has been neglected."

Regarding the spiritual experience of glossolalia (speaking in unknown tongues), Robinson contends that the legitimate gift of tongues, mentioned in the Book of Acts, provides the ability to speak and communicate the gospel in another language. The interpretation of tongues is the ability to understand a language and convey its meaning to listeners. God indeed still gives the gift of tongues for the communication of the gospel, Robinson writes, explaining, "When the ability to speak in another language to communicate the gospel in order to

bring a person to Christ occurs, God gives that ability."

The apostle Paul wrote the Corinthians not to teach the practice of tongues but to correct the Corinthian church's perversion of the true biblical gift of tongues, Robinson writes. In 1 Corinthians 14 Paul taught these believers to "be zealous for gifts that edify the church."

Believers who elevate the tongues experience to being "The Gift" and contend that those who do not participate are spiritually inferior, act in a way that does not build up the body of Christ, Robinson points out.

"Those who speak in tongues are not under the control of a force outside of themselves. They are responsible for their behavior," he writes. "They can control what they

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do and say, and they are accountable for it. Anything done in church should be orderly and done for the building up of the body."

SOURCE OF ALL GIFTS

Without questionnaires or assessment materials, Robinson's book examines each of the spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament and demonstrates that through Christ believers have the potential to possess any gift the church needs.

Christ, the source of all gifts, surfaces whatever is necessary for a person to fulfill his will through that person, Robinson writes.

Incredibly Gifted, with forewords by Georgia pastors Johnny Hunt and former Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt, is available at Christian bookstores, on Amazon.com or through the publisher, Hannibal Books, at (800) 747-0738, or on the Internet at www.hannibalbooks.com.

Looking back

10 years ago

Al Mohler, a 33-year-old Baptist newspaper editor from Atlanta, will be recommended as president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, according to the seminary's presidential search committee. Four of Southern's presidents were in their 30s when elected.

20 years ago

Overseas churches related to Southern Baptist mission work baptized 140,844 believers in 1982, nearly 11% more than the previous year. The people of Brazil, completing their first century of Baptist work, accounted to a third of those baptisms.

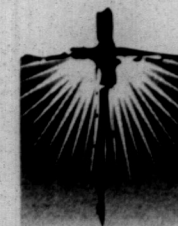
50 years ago

According to an announcement made by the State Sunday School Department 1,074, or 65.3%, of the Baptist churches in Mississippi held Vacation Bible Schools in 1952, with upwards of 104,000 pupils enrolled.

NBB Honors Rogers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Pastor and teacher Adrian Rogers, founder of Love Worth Finding, was inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Hall of Fame February 10 during the annual convention at the Omni Hotel in Nashville. Rogers is pastor of Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tenn., near Memphis, which has grown from 9,000 members in 1972 to more than 28,000 members today. He developed Love Worth Finding, with one-hour television broadcasts and 30-minute radio broadcasts of his preaching, in 1967 after requests for tapes of his sermons grew beyond management. Love Worth Finding can now be seen and heard worldwide on more than 14,000 television outlets and 2,000 radio stations across America and in more than 125 countries. The program's Spanish broadcasts reach nearly all of Latin America — one of the fastest-growing areas in Love Worth Finding's programming. Rogers served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1979-80 and again from 1986-88, and he has preached in overseas crusades in Taiwan, South Korea, Israel, Russia, Romania, and Central and South America. He has been the keynote speaker for such meetings as Washington for Jesus, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the National Religious Broadcasters. "I believe God wants us to proclaim the message of salvation in the power of the Holy Spirit by every means possible, especially through radio and television," Rogers said on the Love Worth Finding website, www.lwf.org.

Rogers



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BAPTISTS

THE
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FRONT PAGE

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Revival noted in movie's companion book

House moves cloning ban legislation

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has forwarded legislation prohibiting all cloning of human beings to the full legislative body.

The committee voted 19-12 Feb. 12 for the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, H.R. 534. The measure will move to the floor, where it is expected to be taken up when the House reconvenes Feb. 25 after the President's Day recess.

It is highly likely the House will easily approve the bill. In the last congressional session, representatives passed a similar proposal by more than 100 votes. Its future in the Senate is much more doubtful. The Senate failed to act on the House-approved measure last time.

Opponents of cloning for both reproductive and research purposes hailed the action.

The committee rejected attempts to amend the bill to permit the cloning of human embryos in order to do research. Using the embryos for research results in their destruction. Some members of Congress support a ban only on cloning that results in the birth of a child.

President Bush called in his State of the Union address for Congress to pass a comprehensive ban on cloning, saying "no human life should be started or ended as the object of an experiment."

Reps. Dave Weldon, R.-Fla., and Bart Stupak, D.-Mich., are the lead House sponsors of the comprehensive ban. Sens. Sam Brownback, R.-Kan., and Mary Landrieu, D.-La., are sponsoring similar legislation in the Senate.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—In the fall and winter of 1863-64, a "great revival" took place among the Confederate and Union forces, and tens of thousands of soldiers were converted.

In a war in which 620,000 died, men were seeking the solace of God in great numbers and chapels couldn't hold the soldiers who wanted to get in.

Volumes have been written about the violent Civil War battles within the divided nation, but the devout faith of men on both sides of the North/South conflict has rarely been chronicled.

Now readers and audiences can discover the religious beliefs of those who fought on both sides of the Civil War in a new Broadman & Holman book, *Faith in God and Generals: An Anthology of Faith, Hope, and Love in the American Civil War*.

The book was released Jan. 31 and serves as a companion resource to a major motion picture, *Gods and Generals*, set to open on Feb. 21 and starring Robert Duvall, Jeff Daniels, and Mira Sorvino.

Faith in God and Generals, compiled by Ted Baehr, Movieguide founder/publisher, and Susan Wales, author, speaker, producer, and radio personality, contains writings and photos focusing on the lives of such Civil War heroes as Abraham Lincoln, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, Clara Barton, and Frederick Douglas.

Much of the information in the book was compiled through letters and diary entries of people who lived during the Civil War and from articles written by history experts, Baehr said.

The book also includes photographs from the set of the film and excerpts from its script. Ron Maxwell, director of the 1993 film *Gettysburg*, also directs *Gods and Generals*. Set in an era that predates the July 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, the book and movie document a nation divided, beginning in 1861 and climaxing with the

May 1-3, 1863, Battle of Chancellorsville in which Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was killed by friendly fire.

In compiling the book, Wales said she gained "an appreciation for these great men and women who lived before us and strove to make our world a better place."

FAITH IN GOD AND GENERALS



"I pray we can do the same for our children and the generations to come, by learning from their mistakes and their successes as we make choices and decisions for our country, our businesses, and in our own personal lives," she said.

Many of those fighting for both the Union and Confederacy were devoutly faithful people who trusted Jesus Christ, Wales said. People on both sides prayed for God to bless their cause but ultimately, God's own purposes prevailed.

In fact, the book quotes a bewildered Abraham Lincoln, who wonders whose side God is on, crying out: "We, on our side, are praying him to give us victory, because we believe we are right; but those on the other side pray him, too, for victory, believing they are right. What must he think of us?"

Wales said she believes God's will is revealed in historical stages. "Sometimes we just understand a little bit of God's will at a time," she said. "Apparently the fight had to be fought and the blood had to be shed for the slaves to be freed, just as Christ's blood had to be shed on the cross for our spiritual freedom."

"Ultimately God's will was done, and the hope that Christ's power brought out of this suffering was that slavery was ultimately abolished," she added. "This was also the beginning of a journey to make all men equal and endow them with the same rights."

Both the book and the movie juxtapose the tragedy of lost dreams and brutal battles — when friends and family members often fought against each other — with the impressive faith and patriotism of those who hoped to build a better world through the struggle, Baehr said.

"We tried to present history as accurately as possible," he said. "This is pretty strong stuff. But I hope people will see how important faith was to those who have gone before them and

think how about important faith is today."

The faith of those who fought on both sides of the conflict is a great example to Americans today during a time when fewer people stick to deeply held convictions, Wales said.

"They were confident of eternal life and a better place and looked forward to their death despite the outcome of the war," she said. "They were willing to die for what they believed in, right or wrong, and trusted that they would find their answers in heaven."

Broadman & Holman is the trade book division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. *Faith in God and Generals* can be purchased at LifeWay Christian Stores and online at www.lifewaystores.com.

Critic/author urges support for motion picture

ATLANTA (BP) — A prominent Christian media critic is urging evangelicals to support *Gods and Generals*, a new Civil War movie which opens in theaters across the country on February 21.

"The entire future of this incredible, faith-filled movie rests on how well it does in the first few weeks and, indeed, the very first weekend at the box office," Ted Baehr told those attending a screening of the movie in Atlanta in January.

Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission, writes a syndicated column about entertainment based on biblical values. He is also the coauthor of a book about the film, titled *Faith in God and Generals*, published by the Broadman & Holman division of LifeWay Christian Resources.



Baehr

"This epic Warner Bros. Pictures/Ted Turner Pictures release is filled with the passion, drama, life and death of our nation's darkest hour, wonderfully acted by Hollywood's finest talent," Baehr said. "Most importantly, it captures the triumph of faith and love in the midst of tragedy — a message we need to hear as the world continues to struggle with war and division."

Based on a novel by the same title by Jeff Shaara, *Gods and Generals* begins in early 1861 and continues through 1863, climaxing with the Battle of Chancellorsville.

It is actually a prequel to the 1993 film *Gettysburg*, featuring much of the same cast and intended to be the first film in a trilogy of which *Gettysburg*

would be the second and *The Last Full Measure*, covering the last two years of the war, would be the finale.

The film's \$60 million production budget was four times larger than the budget for the *Gettysburg* film. Much of *Gods and Generals* was shot on location in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, with 158 speaking roles and thousands of Civil War re-enactors.

The film largely focuses on Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson, portrayed by Stephen Lang (who played General Pickett in the movie *Gettysburg*) and Confederate General Robert E. Lee, played by Robert Duvall. The strong Christian faith of both men is unapologetically portrayed in the film.

Although not many professional critics have yet published reviews of *Gods and*

Generals, postings on various movie and Civil War websites run the gamut, with some describing the movie as too long (three-and-a-half hours) and inaccurate, while others praise it as "the surprise movie of the year...a must see."

Many of those attending the Atlanta screening appreciated the accurate representation of the strong faith of those on both sides of the war and its faithfulness to the Shaara book. Most agreed the film was long, but several who had read Shaara's books felt the length was not a negative.

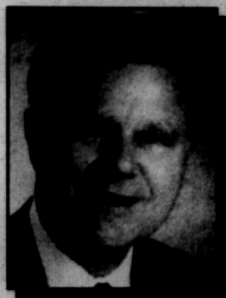
The film is rated PG-13 due to sustained battle sequences. Additional information about the movie, its writer/producer/director Ron Maxwell, (who also directed *Gettysburg*) and trailers of the film are available at the film's website, www.godsandgenerals.com.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Questions are an important part of life. Each day is filled with questions that we may be asking of ourselves, or questions we are being asked, or questions we are asking others. Early on in the educational process we learn about questions. At that time, we are taught that they are actually interrogatives or tools that are used to gain information for understanding.

A couple of years ago, I wrote an article in *Directions* about the most asked question of our day. At that time you could hardly go an hour or so without saying it or hearing someone say it. It was a question that was made into commercials and was used for comedy skits. It was a question that grew out of the use of cell phones and the aggravating intermittent disruptions that would take place. The question simply asked, "Can you hear me now?" I do think that the cell phone folks have made improvements in this area, but it is still a distinct possibility that you can be driving along, or standing still for that matter, and for whatever reason the signal will drop off. You quickly find that you are talking to yourself, or speaking in "Garble-eeze," and whatever you are talking about is put on hold while you try to open the communication pathways by asking, "Can you hear me now?"

I believe now that there is a replacement for that most asked question in our land. If it has not replaced, "Can you hear me now?" it is certainly running a close second and probably in time will overtake first place. I hear it almost every time I make a phone call and by the same token, I ask it a dozen times a day. The question, again, has been brought on by the use of portable, mobile, traveling cell phones. I do not want to keep you in suspense, so here it is — the soon to be Number One question asked all across America —



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

"Where are you?" Or, as the southern version usually goes, "Where are you at?"

Many years ago, when typically there used to be one phone per household, and maybe one or two phones in a business, we had some visual image when we called someone. We could generally visualize where they were and their surroundings. But, that day is long gone! These days, when you return a phone call to someone's cell phone, you may be talking to them while they are in an airport, restaurant, rodeo, or a wrestling match. The party you are talking to could be five states away or in the car sitting behind you. Just in the past few days, I have returned some phone calls where I have asked, "Where are you?" and in response I've heard, "Well, you wouldn't believe it but I am sitting in Great Falls, Montana" or "I'm walking down the street in downtown New York City." Still another response was, "I just passed you on the highway."

We've all had similar experiences, but let me get on to the point that I want to make. These two questions: "Can you hear me now?" and "Where are you?" may be two of the most important questions that have ever been asked in history. In fact, you can document in Scripture where they are vitally important because in the very opening chapters of the Word you will find them either implied or spoken.

Let's think about the first question — "Can you hear me now?" God wanted to live with an open communication with His children. He wanted them to hear His plans, His dreams, and His desires for their lives, but the communication became garbled. It

became garbled not by God but by the interference that came from us. Sin distorts our hearing and either we do not hear or we do not want to hear. We turned a deaf ear after sin came in the garden. In the cool of the day the Lord came and said, "Adam... Adam." For however long Adam and Eve had lived in the Garden of Eden in innocence and love, and in relationship with God and communication with the Creator, things now had radically changed! Both Adam and Eve had disobeyed God and it wasn't the piece of food that ruined them — it was their disobedient hearts that had affected their hearing and they did not want to listen to God.

We know that the Scriptures say they were hiding from the Lord. Perhaps a better way of looking at it is to recognize the foolishness of trying to hide from God. How many times, through the Scriptures, does God say, "Listen. Hear the Word of the Lord. He that has ears to hear, let him hear." That is God saying, "Can you hear me now?"

Now let's look at the second question — "Where are you?" That is even more probing. Literally, God said to Adam in the garden, "Where are you Adam?" At first glance, we might think that God was trying to discover where Adam actually was, but God did not ask this question to find out information or a location. God asked this question so that Adam would see where Adam was. Do you realize what had happened and what God was trying to show Adam when He asked, "Where are you,

Adam?" The reality was that Adam was separated from God. Adam was separated from the relationship he had known with his mate. Adam was separated even from himself. At that point, Adam was a different person in his relationship with God for sin had come and separated him. He was different in his relationship with others because sin had come and warped the sweet relationship that he and Eve had shared with each other. He was even different in his relationship with himself because the joy of being who he was had been changed and the delight of working and being had been altered. The Garden of Eden became "Paradise Lost."

What if God came to you today and asked, "Where are you?" What would you say? Where are you in relationship to God? Where are you in relationships with others? Where are you in relationship to yourself and the Godly potential that was entrusted to you? It is a God-probing kind of question, but it doesn't end in just our answer. We know, like Adam, we slither off to a corner of life, hiding and trying to sow our fig leaves of righteousness in order to cover ourselves up and God knows that that isn't going to help. But, as we get our answers, God provides His answer as He sends a redeemer, a restorer, a direction-finder, a life-giver named Jesus. God knows where we are and He sends Jesus who says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and He points us to the pathway that leads to God.

Wherever you are, it may not be where you want to be. Wherever you are, may not be where God wants you to be. But, from wherever you are, this very day you can turn to God and find your way home. At this very moment you may hear the questions to your heart, "Can you hear me now?" and "Where are you?" and you may respond by saying, "Lord, I do hear you and although I'm in a mess, I turn to you and trust you today to take charge of my life and lead me home."

Marriage conferences set May 23-25

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Marriage Impact 2003, an "extreme adventure" marriage conference combining outdoor adventures with Bible study and worship, will be offered May 23-25 at LifeWay's Glorieta conference center near Santa Fe, N.M., and at LifeWay's Ridgecrest conference center near Asheville, N.C.

Former actress Lisa Whelchel-Cauble, best known for her role as Blair on NBC's sitcom *Facts of Life*, and her husband Steve, an associate pastor in California, will lead the Bible study portion of Marriage Impact at Glorieta.

Whelchel, author of several books, including *Creative Correction: Extraordinary Ideas for Everyday Discipline*, traded in Hollywood fame to home-school her three young children. In addition to her acting accolades, she received a Grammy nomination for her solo album, *All Because of You*.

Clay Crosse, twice nominated for Dove Awards as male vocalist of the year after being named 1995's New Artist of the Year, will lead praise and worship. During his eight-year musical career, Crosse has recorded eight No. 1 singles, including *I Surrender All*, *My Place Is With You*, and *I Will Follow Christ*.

At Ridgecrest, nationally known husband-and-wife speakers Jeff and Joy Earle will combine humor, music, drama, and biblical teaching to help couples strengthen and enrich their marriages.

Steve Wiggins, former lead singer of Grammy Award-nominated Big Tent Revival and a Dove Award winner, will serve as praise and worship leader. Registration information can be obtained on the Internet at www.lifeway.com then entering Marriage Impact under the search function, or call Glorieta at (800) 797-4222 or Ridgecrest at (800) 588-7222.

Wellness walk charted for SBC Phoenix meeting

DALLAS (BP) — A Run for the Son walk for wellness will be sponsored by the Annuity Board (AB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) June 17 during the 2003 SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

The Run for the Son, slated to begin at 6:30 a.m., will follow a one-mile course around the Phoenix Civic Plaza. Participation will be limited to 750 walkers.

The first 500 registered walkers will receive a free Run for the Son T-shirt. Healthy refreshments will be served to all participants at the end of the walk.

"The purpose of the Run for the Son walk is to demonstrate the Annuity Board's ongoing

commitment to wellness," said AB President O.S. Hawkins. "We want Southern Baptists to see us as walking advocates for wellness."

In 2002, the AB began a pilot wellness program with the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC). Over the past year, AB and TBC employees have participated in several activities designed to educate and promote a healthy lifestyle. Several other state conventions will be joining the program in 2003.

In support of the wellness initiative, the companies that provide services for the

Annuity Board's life and health products are co-sponsoring the walk. The four companies providing financial support are the Principal Financial Group, Unum Life Insurance Company of America, Medco

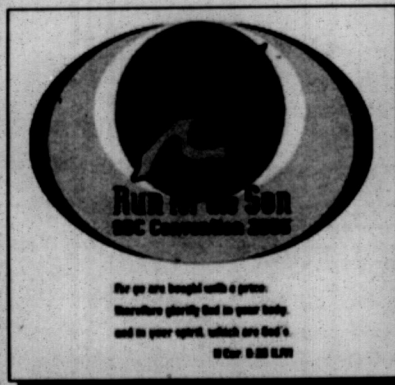
Health Solutions, and Fortis Benefits Insurance Company.

"With medical costs consistently on the rise over the last several years, the Annuity

Board is encouraging its employees and Southern Baptists across the country to take more responsibility for their own health," said Doug Day, executive officer of benefit services at the SBC entity.

"Americans have to get out of the mindset that somebody else should be responsible for their medical expenses. By living a healthy lifestyle and making informed choices, each of us can make an impact," Day said.

Anyone interested in participating in the Run for the Son walk for wellness should contact AB at (800) 262-0511, or by e-mail at webmaster@absbc.org. Registration forms for the walk will be available in March.



NAMES IN THE NEWS

West Ripley Church, Ripley, ordained Jim Walker, Dale Hall, and David Shelton on Jan. 12. Pictured (from left) are Bill Baker, pastor, Walker, Hall, and Shelton.

Twin Lakes Church, Walls, recently installed two new deacons, Curtis McCulloch and John Edmonds. Pictured (from left) are McCulloch and Edmonds. Willard K. Crawley is pastor.



Toni Myers WMU of First Church, Sumner



West Ripley Deacon Ordination, Ripley



Twin Lakes Deacon Ordination, Walls

The **Benton-Tippah Associational** ESL classes enjoyed a Christmas Party on Dec. 10. Mary Ann Janes, Harmony Church, led the children in singing Christmas songs. Ruben Raquel, Springdale Church, lead the entire group in carols.

Gene Foshee has retired after 39 years from pastoral work. He served Cumberland Church, Maben, along with churches in Alaska and Massachusetts. Foshee is available for supply and interim work. He is making his home in Southaven and can be reached at (662) 280-3590.

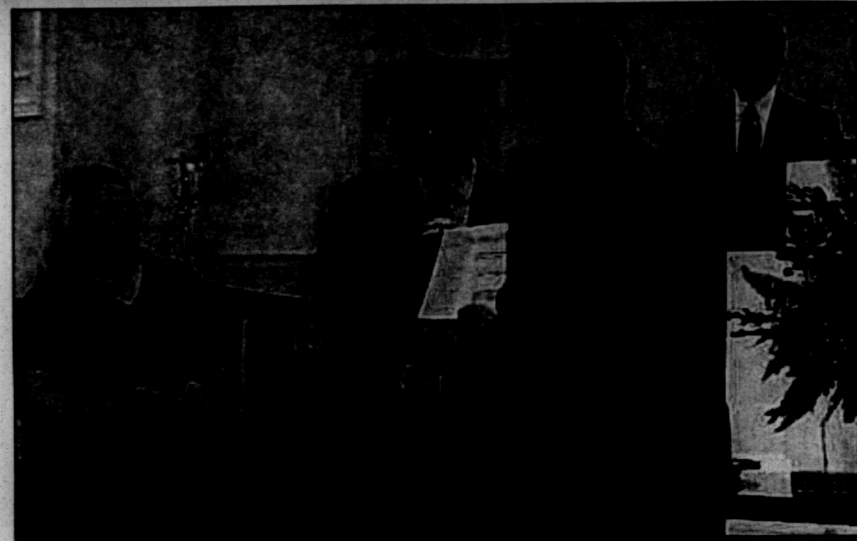
Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, ordained Scott Mangum on Dec. 29. He currently serves as pastor at Sardis Church, Morton. Pictured (from left) are Mangum's wife Christy, Mangum, Tommy Mangum, and Daniel Caldwell.

Harmony Church, Walnut, ordained five men on Aug. 25. Pictured (from left) are Wade Wooley, Norris Cutberth, Larry Gunn, Bret Wooley, and Tommy Hopkins. Brian Tatum is pastor.

The **Toni Myers Women on Missions WMU Group of First Church, Sumner,** celebrated their 50th birthday in October. Myers is the wife of former pastor Lewis Myers. The Myers served as missionaries to Vietnam and Cambodia.

New Generation, Kennedy Church, Magee, will perform at Trinity Church, Pearl, on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

Flowood Church, Flowood, ladies annual prayer retreat will be held Feb. 28-March 1 at Camp Garaywa, Clinton. For more information, call (601) 992-6464.



Christy & Scott Mangum, Tommy Mangum & Daniel Caldwell



Harmony Church Deacon Ordination, Walnut



Benton-Tippah Associational ESL Christmas Party

Visit the MS Baptist Convention Board on the web at:

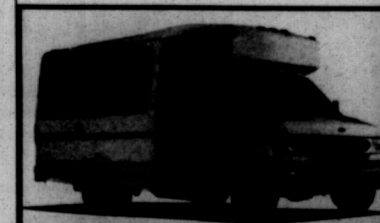
www.mbecb.org

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

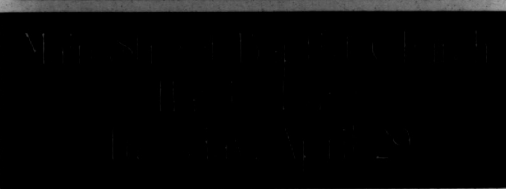
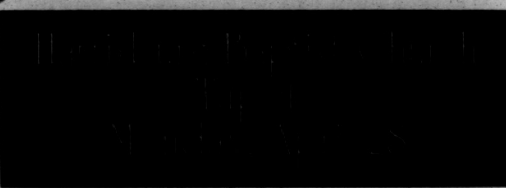
HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 20, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Preaching & Worship Conference



Featured Presenters:
Waylon Bailey & Bill Clark

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3305, or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Professional Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat

May 1-2, 2003
Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa
Clinton

*"Together Everyone
Accomplishes More"*

Program Leaders:
Steve Stone
Silva Deloach

Registration: \$20

Bring the key leaders of your preschool/children's ministry team.

For more info, call Don Hicks at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.

GULFSHORE SEEKING SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly is accepting applications for employment for the 2003 summer staff, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

College age applicants who are interested are encouraged to consider this avenue of ministry and service. The assembly begins its summer program May 10, 2003, and continues until August 9, 2003. The Gulfshore schedule features Senior Adult, Single, Youth, Music, Family and Adult Leadership Conferences. It is hoped that 2003 attendance will be the largest ever for Gulfshore.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides an interesting program of activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development. It provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people from various places in Mississippi and to develop meaningful and personal friendships with these people.

Interested college age students are encouraged to meet with Simmons February 24 through March 13 on various college campuses across Mississippi, where he will be interviewing prospective employees. The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Monday	(Feb. 24)	East Central Comm. College BSU Miss. College - Rogers Student Center	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 2-6 p.m.
Tuesday	(Feb. 25)	Hinds Comm. College BSU Center Co-Lin Comm. College BSU Center Southwest Miss. Comm. College BSU Center	10 a.m.-noon. 1:30-3:30 p.m. 4-5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Feb. 26)	Jones County Junior College BSU Center Meridian Comm. College	10 a.m.-1 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Thursday	(Feb. 27)	WM Carey College - Crawford Hall BSU University of Southern Miss. BSU Center	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1-4 p.m.
Monday	(Mar. 3)	Miss. Delta Comm. College BSU Delta State BSU Center	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 2:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 4)	Northwest Miss. Comm. College Student Union Blue Mountain College BSU Center	11 a.m.-1 p.m. 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	(Mar. 5)	Miss. State University BSU Center	11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 6)	Northeast Miss. Comm. College BSU Ole Miss BSU Center	10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 3-5 p.m.
Tuesday	(Mar. 11)	GCCC - Jackson County Campus	11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wednesday	(Mar. 12)	GCCC- Jeff Davis BSU Center	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Thursday	(Mar. 13)	Pearl River Comm. College BSU	10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

For additional information about an interview, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore, 228-452-7261 or e-mail fsimmons@mbcb.org or contact the BSU director on the college campus in your respective area of the state.

For a staff application and other information write to Summer Employment, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First St., Pass Christian, MS, 39571-3299 or visit the website www.mbc.org

Unique?

Stand out from the crowd?

The Christian Performing Arts Festival
is designed with you in mind.



For more info, call Harvey
Ellis, Discipleship and
Family Ministry
1-800-748-1651,
601-292-3286 or e-mail
hgellis@mbcb.org.

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2003
RIDGECREST BC, MADISON

It's not too late to come! You can register at the door.

- Drama
- Clowning
- Puppets
- Church Recreation
- Youth Ministry
- Media
- Missions

conferences

Friday, February 21

5:45 p.m. Registration
6:30 Announcements
(in the auditorium)
7:00 Session 1
8:15 Session 2
9:25 Creative Worship

Saturday, February 22

8:00 a.m. Announcements
(in the auditorium)
8:45 Session 3
10:00 Break with
refreshments
10:30 Session 4
11:40 Lunch and Open
Performance
1:25 p.m. Session 5
2:30 Creative Worship
3:30 Closing Time/Home

schedule

CPAF Registration Form

February 21-22, 2003 • Ridgcrest Baptist Church, Madison

Cost: \$30

Leader of groups of 10 or more get in free.

Participant/contact person's name _____ E-mail _____ Daytime phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church _____ Church phone _____
Adults attending _____ + # Youth attending _____ = _____ Total enclosed \$ _____ (full amount required)

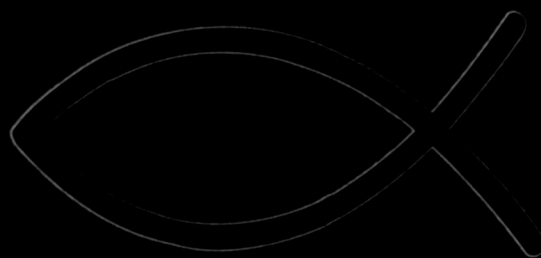
Open Performance Sign-up

Type of Group _____ Drama _____ Puppetry _____ Clowning _____ Name of group _____
Contact person _____ E-mail _____ Daytime phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Title of selection _____

Register now for...

MissionsNOW Weekend!
March 28-30, 2003

"JUST A WANNA BE"



Talk to your youth leaders...they have the details!

For more info, e-mail rkeels@mbcb.org or tanderson@mbcb.org or phone
Robin or Tammy at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 322, or 292-3322 (Jackson)

2003 State Young Musician's Camps

For children who have finished 4-6 grades



GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY JUNE 24-28

Guest Conductor: Jim Gill
Church Music and Worship Department director
South Carolina Baptist Convention, Columbia, S.C.
Register on or after February 1, 2003,
through Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 228-452-7261.
Cost \$147 per person

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE JULY 21-25

Guest Conductor: Terry Taylor
minister of music, First Baptist Church, Dothan, Ala.
Register on or after February 1, 2003,
through the Church Music Department,
1-800-748-1651.
Cost \$100 per person



Discipleship Resource Showcase



For more information, please call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651.

Older Children's Bible Drill Camp

for children who have completed grades 3-6

Central Hills Baptist Retreat • June 30-July 2, 2003
Cost: \$85

For more information about the camp program, contact Don Hicks at 601-292-3287 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651 or by e-mail at dhicks@mbcb.org.
For information about reservations or the retreat center contact Jim Ray at 662-289-9730 or by e-mail at jray@mbcb.org.

Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Conference

featuring

Gaye Martin



We are very honored this year to have as our key speaker Gaye Martin. Gaye is the wife of Phil Martin. She is a mother and grandmother. Gaye is a popular speaker and management consultant whose clients include NASCAR, the Rosalynn Carter Institute, the Smithsonian and Lockheed Martin. She speaks to Christian Women's Clubs nationwide and has been featured on *Focus on the Family* radio. Gaye is the author of *I READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR...SAY AGAIN?*

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3305, or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Monday, April 7

9:30 a.m.	Registration
10:30 a.m.	Welcome
	Julia Field
10:35 a.m.	Praise Time
	Charlotte Ready
10:45 a.m.	Message
	Gaye Martin
11:30 a.m.	Door Prizes
noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Homework Assignments
2:00 p.m.	Praise Time
	Charlotte Ready
2:30 p.m.	Message
	Gaye Martin
3:00 p.m.	Door Prizes
3:30 p.m.	Homework Assignments
4:30 p.m.	MBMAA General Business Meeting
6:00 p.m.	Banquet
	Lloyd and Rita Sweatt

Tuesday, April 8

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Door Prizes
8:15 a.m.	Praise Time
	Charlotte Ready
8:30 a.m.	Message
	Gaye Martin
9:15 a.m.	Homework Assignments
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Homework Assignments
11:30 a.m.	Area Meetings
	Area Representatives
noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Door Prizes/Grand Prize
	Silent Auction Winners
1:30 p.m.	Praise Time
	Charlotte Ready
2:00 p.m.	Closing Message
	Gaye Martin



Pray this day for...

February 21 - March 6, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

GOD. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU? A little girl often supplemented her usual evening prayer with many requests for special favors from the Lord. However, one night - as a sweet afterthought - she closed with the words, "And now, God, what can I do for You?"

For: (1) Volunteer Missions Day (MM Emphasis); (2) Since July of 2002, church planters from The Redeemer Baptist Church of San Salvador have been meeting for Bible study in El Tique, a poor community of 72 families who have little education. Pray the following barriers can be overcome: selfishness, nonconformity to the truth, envy and slander-gossip.

For: (1) Season of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU Emphasis); (2) Eight believers in a Last Frontier nation will be baptised very soon. This is seen as a giant step in their culture, as it carries with it a sense of finality. Pray that others will come to faith as a result of this witness.

For: "Pray for peace in Venezuela," asks the University Team. "The current crisis has disrupted university campus ministry and students' academic careers. Pray for creativity in finding ways to maintain contact with the students and meet their needs, both spiritual and social.

The 2003 session of the Mississippi Legislature began on January 7, with a total of 2,342 bills introduced. Christians are encouraged to contact their state representative and senator about any legislation of concern. Pray for Mississippi's senators and representatives as they seek to make decisions that affect all of our lives.

For: (1) Growth Spiral Conference, FBC, Winona, 9 a.m.-noon (SS); (2) Although the peoples' livelihoods in mega-East Asian cities differ, a common thread of discouragement and despair is obvious. The Bible is available in the language of the educated but literacy rates are low. Pray for the evangelization of these cities.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would be speaking to the hearts of Sorani Kurds in northern Iraq, at this time of political uncertainty, leading them to new life in Jesus Christ. Recently, in a spontaneous meeting of former Muslims, each spoke of God's hand in transforming their lives. Pray for the underground Church in Kurdistan.

The theme of World AIDS Day 2002 was to remove the AIDS stigma from victims and their families. Some of the ways to do this is to have open discussions about HIV/AIDS, legislation to protect the employment rights of those with HIV, and education to prevent discrimination. Pray that all will be given a chance to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 5th-7th; (2) Michael King is an Army active duty chaplain. Pray for the family readiness group and the marriage retreats being conducted for soldiers and their spouses and for the ministry outreaches during these times of extremely high operations.

For: (1) AMD Dialog Meeting, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 10 a.m., 27th-noon 28th (MS); (2) Lee and Ellen Martin are public safety chaplains in Kansas. Pray about the purchase of a bed and breakfast in Topeka to be used as a marriage retreat center for police officers and fire fighters. Pray for wisdom, support, funding, and God's will.

Ask God to continue to use the lives and deaths of recently martyred workers in the Middle East to encourage and embolden Christian believers as they proclaim the gospel. Pray for them to personally experience the reality of 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and self-discipline."

For: (1) Mississippi Specialized Workers Training, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); (2) Christian Performing Arts Festival, Ridgecrest BC, Madison, 6 p.m.-21st-4 p.m., 22nd (D&FM); (3) Please pray today for President Hugo Chavez Frias of Venezuela (northern South America).

For: (1) State Youth Music Festival, Daniel Memorial BC, Jackson, 6:30 p.m., 28th-1 p.m., 1st (CM); (2) Pray for government officials and leaders in the Middle East to enact and support laws that provide freedom of religious choice to their people.

For: (1) State Keyboard Festival, Woodland Hills BC, Jackson, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (CM); (2) Pray for a visa to Brazil for missionary Rise Utley who will study Portuguese for nine months there before going to Nampula, Mozambique. He will minister to the Makhuwa people through the means of literacy and Bible reading groups.

In December, several workers, along with several nationals in Chengdu, China, sponsored a Christmas supper for 24 people of the lower class. These are people who sell produce in the market, live on the street, or ride passengers on a three-wheeler. All 24 clearly heard the gospel in their heart language. Praise God! All 24 made a decision to follow Him.

Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop

March 18, 2003
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Broadmoor Baptist Church
1531 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, Mississippi

The conference is for pastors, staff members, building committees, long-range planning committees, business administrators and maintenance/property personnel. For more information, please call the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.

Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop
March 18, 2003
Broadmoor Baptist Church
1531 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, Mississippi

Cost: \$15 per person (includes lunch)

Name: _____ Church Name: _____

Church Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Phone: _____

Church _____ Vendor (Vendor: please indicate which of the following you will need) _____ Table _____ Church Power Supply _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____ Number Attending: _____

A Ministry of Your Cooperative Program

North Mississippi Women's Retreat

March 14-15, 2003
Central Hills Baptist Retreat
(near West, Miss.)

"A Seeking Heart:
Rediscovering True
Worship"

featuring:

Sarah Groves, author and
musician, Fayetteville, Ark.

For more info and to register, call the WMU
Department at 1-800-748-1651 or
601-968-3800 in Jackson.

HOUSE TOPS.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Hillcrest Church, Jackson, hosted the annual Boy Scout Pack 99 Pine Wood Derby car races on Feb. 1. Pictured are the Derby leaders.

On World Hunger Day, the youth, GAs, and RAs of **First Church, Laurel,** reminded the Sunday morning congregation that for the cost of a fast food meal, much good work could be done for those in need. They collected \$1,077.

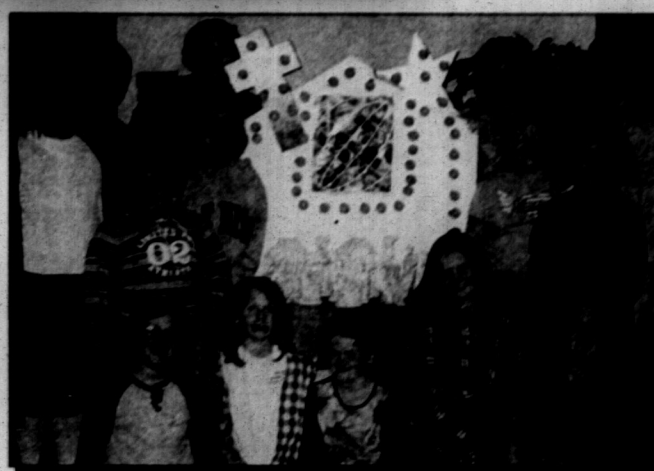


World Hunger Day - First Church, Laurel

The GAs of **West Ripley Church, Ripley,** operated a Post Office for church members—to bring Christmas cards and give

the postage money to the GAs for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They raised \$842.55 of the \$6,927.67 total offering which helped West Ripley exceed their goal.

A **Sidewalk Counseling at Abortion Clinics Workshop** will be held March 1 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Right to Life of Jackson Office, Jackson. For reservations, call (601) 956-8636.



GAs of West Ripley Church, Ripley

The 1st and 2nd grade GAs of **First Church, Pascagoula,** recently used sign language and sang We Will Carry the Light. Pictured (from left) are Taylor Tingle, Samantha Kilgore, Donna Anderson, teacher, Anna Lauren Harrison, Taylor Odom, and Madison Olsen.

The **Simpson County Women's Conference** will be held March 21 beginning at 5:30 p.m. and March 22 beginning at 8 a.m. at First Church, Magee. Alicia Williamson will be in concert. For more information or to register, call (601) 849-9883 or (601) 849-9962.

Slayden Church, Slayden, will present Understanding Spirit Giftedness on March 21 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and March 22 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Marie

Strain will be the guest lecturer. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information, call (662) 252-4559.

Henry Blackaby Ministries and First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla., are sponsoring Hearing God's Voice April 10-12 at First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla. For more information, call (561) 650-7400 ext. 7401.

Bayou Talla Fellowship Church, Kiln, celebrated a ground-breaking for a new youth wing on Feb. 2. Pictured (from left, front) John Moak, Perry Moran, Tony Soma, Sharie Anderson, Roger Caplinger, Glen Dastugue, (back) John Caplinger, Micah Ncaise, Joe Bermond, Billy Smith, and Nestor Torres.



GAs of First Church, Pascagoula



Ground-breaking at Bayou Talla Church, Kiln



Boy Scout Pack 99 Derby Leaders

Are you paying too much for your Medicare Supplement or Prescription Drugs? If yes, Call Today!

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(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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Texas church bus accident claims seven

WACO, Texas (BP) — A church bus carrying more than 30 members of Memorial Church in Temple, Texas, crashed on Interstate 35 south of Waco Feb. 14, killing seven people and injuring 33 others. The crash occurred near the town of Hewitt at 10 a.m. as the bus was traveling northbound in heavy rain. The church group was en route to an afternoon Bill Gaither Homecoming concert at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

According to Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) spokesman Tom Vinger, the driver of the charter bus swerved to avoid stalled traffic and lost control of the vehicle. The bus slid into oncoming traffic and rolled onto an SUV, killing two of its three occupants instantly. Witnesses said that several of the passengers were ejected from the bus.

DPS spokesman Cpl. Charlie Morgan said rain may have played a factor in the accident, but the exact cause was still under investigation.

Preliminary investigations of the bus company revealed no pattern of accidents, and the driver was not suspected of operating the bus under the influence of alcohol or drugs, authorities said.

BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

The William Carey College Speech and Debate Team placed second overall and in individual event sweepstakes at the Webster University Speech and Debate tournament held recently in St. Louis, Mo. Pictured are the team members.

Renee Eaton, an associate professor in music education at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, received the William Carey College Distinguished Alumnus Award at Homecoming ceremonies held recently on the Hattiesburg campus.

Charles Holmes, treatment specialist at the Brantley Baptist Center, New Orleans, received a Service Award for service to God and Mankind at William Carey College Homecoming ceremonies held recently on the Hattiesburg campus.

R. T. Buckley, an IMB representative in Central and Southern Asia, received a Service Award for service to God through mission work at William Carey College Homecoming ceremonies held recently on the Hattiesburg campus.

Daniel Edney, the medical director for the Vicksburg Convalescent Nursing Home, received the William Carey College Distinguished Young Alumnus of the Year Award at



WCC Speech & Debate Team



Daniel Caldwell & Greg Breazeale

Homecoming ceremonies held recently on the Hattiesburg campus.

Helen Chetta, a mother of seven from Clarksville, Ga., received a Service Award for Faith, Family and Community at William Carey College Homecoming ceremonies held recently on the Hattiesburg campus.

The Baptist Student Union, Mississippi College, Clinton, will be hosting a banquet, A Light to the Nations, on Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. as a fundraiser for college students venturing all across the world as student missionaries this summer through the Mississippi Baptist Convention. For more information or tickets, call (601) 925-3238.

The Mississippi College, Clinton, Department of English presents Jerry Ward, a distinguished professor of English and African American World Studies at Dillard University, New Orleans, La., as guest lecturer of the Lipsey Lectureship on

March 27 at 7 p.m. in Anderson Hall. Admission is free. For more information, call (601) 925-3215.

The Mississippi College, Clinton, Office of Continuing Education will offer four non-credit classes: Basic Computer for Seniors, Hypertension: The Silent Killer, Sign Language for Beginners, and Calligraphy, beginning in March and April. For more information or to obtain a registration form, call (601) 925-3263.

The Board of Ministerial Education awarded William Carey College student, Greg Breazeale, Purvis, with the E. R. Pinson Memorial Scholarship. Pictured (from left) are Daniel Caldwell and Breazeale.

Homecoming & Revival Dates

Union, Seminary: Feb. 23-26; Gene Douglas, preaching; for more information, call (601) 722-3752.

Pleasant Grove, Brookhaven: March 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a potluck meal will follow; Herbert Savell, special guest; Kent Cochran, pastor.

Yalobusha Baptist Association, youth-student crusade: Feb. 28-March 1; Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 5:30 p.m.; at the Yalobusha County Multipurpose Building; Ryan Fontenot, R.A.G.E. Ministries, Southaven, evangelist; Russell McCroy and musicians, worship; Ole Miss BSU, drama; parents are welcome; for more information, call (662) 675-8732.

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: July 20; 100th anniversary; worship 9:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; for more information, or to be on the mailing list, call (601) 833-1821; Ken Kirk, pastor.

East Fork Church, Smithdale: March 2-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, evangelist; Ed May, music; nursery provided; Paul G. Cain, pastor.

Macedonia, Petal: March 2-5; Sunday, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 12:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Mitchell, Gulfport, evangelist; Billy Nelson, Florence; Jerry Doggett, pastor.

State Changes

Tim Tutor has been called as pastor of Priceville Church, Tupelo. He previously served as pastor of Ramer Church, Ramer, Tenn. Tutor attends Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Trinity Bible College and Seminary.



The Chetta Family

SLAYDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, SLAYDEN, Miss. (Marshall Association) is seeking an interim Music/Worship leader. Please contact the church office at (662) 252-4559.

PIANIST NEEDED AT FIRST BAPTIST Church of Byram. Call (601) 372-3156.

FLOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a P/T Youth Minister. Please send resume to 1649 Old Fannin Road, Flowood, MS 39232, Attn: Personnel Department.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hernando,

Miss. is currently seeking a full-time Youth Minister. Send resumes to Personnel Ministry Team, Parkway Baptist Church, 50 North Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. For more information call (662) 429-6045.

JASPER COUNTY BAPTIST Association is seeking a Director of Missions. The position is part-time, working w/22 churches. For more information, call (601) 764-2471 or email: jcba@bayspringstel.net. Or to apply, please send resume to Missions

Committee, JCBA, P.O. Box 385, Bay Springs, MS 39422-0385, postmarked no later than 2/28/03.

DRUMMER NEEDED FOR JACKSON metro area SBC church. Call (601) 946-9406 for details.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hattiesburg, Miss. is currently seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resumes c/o music search, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

FACTUALLY CHALLENGED

Editor:

It is incumbent on me as president of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to respond to the exceptionally factually challenged column, Send in the Firing Squad (January 16, 2003).

First, no Cooperative Program funding is used to produce or broadcast Richard Land Live! which is a Salem Communications program.

Second, editor William Perkins obviously did not listen to the program, but used a Baptist Press story to conclude that I spent three hours "lambasting Lott." I stated in the program that I did not believe Lott was a racist and regretted the inevitable need for him to resign. (If you would like to decide for yourself about the program, please contact my office at 615-244-2495 for a free tape of the program.)

Third, Perkins' conclusions concerning my call for Lott's resignation coming after "it was obvious Lott would have to resign" are grossly inaccurate. Let me rehearse the timetable. Lott made "his admittedly scandalous remarks" on December 5. They were not widely reported until December 9-10. I kept hoping Lott would resign as majority leader and I could

commend him for doing the right thing. Alas, he did not; and at the time I did my program, Lott's high-level supporters in the Capitol were threatening that if he had to resign, he would resign from the Senate altogether, endangering the hard-won pro-life majority on the Senate Judiciary Committee. I informed Lott's staff I would be calling for his resignation and did so the next day.

Fourth, this was not a "secular, political dogfight." Lott was the "highest ranking Southern Baptist in federal elected office," therefore his remarks cannot be separated from his faith affiliation. The ERLC has been assigned the racial reconciliation issue by the SBC. We were being bombarded by press inquiries as to whether we agreed with Lott's sentiments. We had no choice but to make it clear that a majority of Southern Baptists found his remarks offensive and embarrassing, which they did.

Richard Land, president
ERLC, Nashville

LAND AND TRUTH

Editor:

David C. Fraizer's letter, appearing in the Jan. 30 issue, suggests that SBC leaders, whom he affectionately refers to as aya-

tollahs, are out of touch with all Baptist Christians. He takes particular interest in Richard Land, referring to him as one who is "self-righteous," and having a "papal-like sense of infallibility."

I graduated from Southern Seminary in 2001. During my tenure as a student at Southern Seminary I did not see any "ayatollahs." However, I did have the opportunity to study under Richard Land and other convention leaders. Throughout the three semesters I sat under Land's teachings, I got to know him and his heart for the Lord. He did not consider himself to be "self-righteous," but a sinner just like me who had been saved by God's grace. In Land, I saw a man who loved the Lord Jesus Christ, who sought to live a holy life, and who genuinely wanted to see others come to Christ. Furthermore, he did not shy away from the truth. He stood for the truth. He believed the truth. He preached the truth. He lived out the truth. I believe that is the real problem folks like Mr. Fraizer have with Richard Land and other Southern Baptist Convention leaders. Folks who stand for the truth get in the way of the liberals and their agenda. It makes me wonder what they think about Jesus, who is the very incarnation of truth.

R. Scott Savell
Lexington, Ky.

COMMENTS COLUMN

Editor:

I wanted to take a minute and commend you for your column, Understanding our Limitations (February 6 issue). I read it on the Baptist Press website, and we discussed it on our morning radio program today. In fact, I read it in its entirety on the air.

You hit the nail on the right on the head. Thanks for the blessing.

Mike Corley, WQBC Radio
Vicksburg

WHAT A BLESSING

Editor:

We are a senior adult couple serving in First Church, Olive Branch. We had never been to an Evangelism Conference but since Tupelo was so close and the lineup for speakers/singers was so good, we decided to go. We realize now that the Lord used your newspaper to draw us to Himself. What a challenge/blessing we received. We were so thrilled to get our paper showing the beautiful pictures Tony Martin did a great job. Again, our thanks to you and your staff for a great publication.

Warren and Nancy Scott
Olive Branch



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Education Dept. adopts school speech guidelines

New guidelines have been issued by the Department of Education (DOE) on what it considers protected religious speech in the country's elementary and secondary schools. Among specific applications listed in the guidelines are:

- Students may communicate their religious beliefs in class assignments without being discriminated against.
- Students may pray and read their Bibles or other religious materials during non-instructional time "to the same extent that they may engage in nonreligious activities."
- Students may organize prayer meetings and Bible or religious clubs before school

hours to the same extent other extracurricular student activities are permitted.

- Students selected on a neutral basis to speak at assemblies may express religious views, and school officials may clarify through disclaimers the schools are not endorsing those beliefs.
- While school officials may not organize prayer at graduation ceremonies or select speakers favoring religion, neutrally selected speakers may not be restricted in expressing religious beliefs. School officials may issue disclaimers clarifying the speakers' views are not those of the schools.
- In order to receive federal education funds, school districts

must certify they have no policies limiting constitutionally protected religious expression.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, applauded President Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige "for clarifying and re-emphasizing the freedom of students to express their religious beliefs and convictions while on public school property. We need to consistently remind school administrators and rabid secularists that the Supreme Court has made it clear ... that students do not leave their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, assembly and worship at the boundaries of public school property."

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, however, criticized the Bush administration for trying "to push the envelope on behalf of prayer in public schools."

"The guidelines arguably would allow a student speaker at a school assembly to launch into a hateful hell-fire-and-damnation sermon complete with an altar call," said Brent Walker, head of the Baptist Joint committee on Public Affairs. "Is that what we want for captive audiences in public schools?"

The guidelines may be accessed on the Internet at http://www.ed.gov/inits/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html.

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THE BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is now receiving resumes from all who are interested in the position of Director Of Missions. Please send resumes to: Linden Baptist Church, Attention Rev. Billy Harris, P.O. Box 481088, Linden, AL 36748. **DEADLINE:** All resumes must be received by March 15, 2003.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Bible: Its Testimony

John 5:37-40, 45-47; Acts 17:2-4, 11-12

By Shirley Stough

Today and in Jesus' day a bone of contention was the identity of Jesus. Was He merely a mythical or historical figure, or was He the Son of God, the promised Messiah?

In John 5, Jesus teaches that the Scriptures prove Him to be the Son of God. John 5 takes place when Jesus has come to celebrate a Jewish feast in Jerusalem. Conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders had already begun and was increasing. The central issue was Jesus' claim to be the Son of God. Chapter 5 begins with Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath. Jesus knew this would invite debate between Himself and the Jewish leaders. When Jesus was questioned about healing on the

Sabbath, He established his authority to work on the Sabbath. He claimed to be equal to the Father whose work on the Sabbath met the needs of people. When the leaders accused him of blasphemy for claiming to be an equal of God, Jesus pointed out that the Scriptures proved His claim to be true. For proof the Jewish law required a minimum of two witnesses. Jesus used several witnesses to prove His claim: John the Baptist, Jesus' miracles, the Father, and the Scriptures. Jesus knew that the Jews searched Scripture to find the key to eternal life. Ironically, in their study they had missed the answer they were seeking — Jesus Christ. They put utmost confidence in Moses'

writings but failed to see that Moses' writings pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus accused them of being spiritually blind and deaf; otherwise, they would have recognized God's presence in Jesus' words and works. Because of their closed minds they rejected their own Scripture, making it difficult for them to accept any testimony. Jesus tells them they have heard the message of God's Word but have misinterpreted it. Do we search Scripture with perceived ideas and prejudices, not open to God's answer? If so, in our study of God's word, we miss Jesus.

In Acts 17, Paul uses Scripture as his basic proof that Jesus is the Messiah. In his missionary journeys, Paul went to key cities to establish churches and then these churches could begin an outreach ministry. When Paul entered a city, he went to the synagogue first in hopes that he would be invited to present his views. He used this approach in

Thessalonica. Paul reasoned with them on three occasions, using Scripture to relate Christ, His death and resurrection to Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah. Although some believed, many opposed Paul's claims and attempted to jail him. He and Silas were forced to leave town during the night. They went to Berea where they used the same strategy to evangelize the Bereans. Unlike the Thessalonians, the Bereans were eager to hear the message and to study Scriptures for evidence that Paul's views were indeed true. The Bereans approached the Scriptures without preconceived prejudices. They were open-minded and tolerant of new ideas from reliable sources. They were committed to the Scripture as God's Word and sincerely wanted to know what God was revealing to them. They set an example for us in Bible study: "...they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (17:11).

Paul's testimony was so convincing of the truth that Jesus

was the Messiah that some of the Jews in the congregation believed. A large number of gentiles, both men and women, were converted. Paul's use of the Scripture was effective. The goal of Scripture — to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ — was realized in Paul's ministry.

As we conclude our study of "The Bible: God's Book of Grace," what have we learned? We have learned that the Bible originated from God; it is His inspired Word. We also know that it is a treasure of divine instruction, a book to be valued above all others. We have also learned that the Bible is our instruction book for salvation and Christian living. Finally, we have learned that Scripture testifies to the true identity of Jesus and leads us to follow Him. Obviously, the Bible holds between its covers everything we need to know to live a committed Christian life. Why not begin a committed study of its truths?

Stough is member of First Church, Picayune.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"Following the Risen Christ"

John 21:15-23

By Don Wilson

As you read this final chapter in John's Gospel, remember that everything he has related in this book is for the purpose that people who read might trust Jesus. This last picture reveals Peter and his devotion to Jesus more than anything else. Seven of the disciples were huddled together when Peter decided that he was going fishing. The others were determined to go too. So they spent the night on the water without catching a single fish. When morning came, these guys looked out toward the shore and a man was there. He called out to them wondering if they had any food. "No," was their reply. Then He yelled out instructions: "Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find fish (21:6)." They

cast the net and caught an entire net full of fish. Only then did John recognize that it was Jesus on the shore: "It is the Lord" (21:7). Peter plunged into the water and headed ashore while the others pulled in the net with the fish. By the time the 153 fish were retrieved, Jesus had a fire hot with a meal of fish and bread ready to eat. Following breakfast, Jesus and Peter talked concerning the reality and result of love.

I. FOLLOW CHRIST IN LOVE: John 21:15-16

Notice that during this conversation Jesus calls Peter "Simon, son of Jonah." John MacArthur, in Twelve Ordinary Men, notes that Jesus used the name "Simon" when talking to Peter after failures in his life. The question Jesus asks is: "Do you

love me more than these?" Many make a big deal about the Greek words for love that are interchanged in this passage. The first two times Jesus asks the question, He used "agapao" which refers to God's love. Peter responds with "phileo" which refers to the affection of family or brotherly love. Jesus' final

question has "phileo" instead. The words seem to be used interchangeably here without showing the distinctions in meaning.

Jesus did not ask His question to gain information. He wanted Peter to examine the depth of his devotion. This loud-mouthed disciple always answered quickly and often without much depth of thought. "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you!" he blurted out. So again Jesus posed the question: "Do you love me?" Again the identical answer came from Peter. He really did love Jesus. The denials just a few days before did not seem to back it up, but in his heart a deep love burned.

Jesus responded to Peter's affirmation of love each time

with a command to "Tend my lambs (and sheep)." The inevitable result of the kind of deep love Jesus was asking about is a commitment to care for those who belong to Jesus. Love for Jesus never exists in a vacuum, but will always be exposed in the way we interact with others who follow the same Jesus we love.

II. FOLLOW CHRIST IN HUMILITY: John 21:17

The third time Jesus asked the question was a lesson in humility for Peter. He had already acknowledged that he loved Jesus twice when Jesus asked the penetrating question again. His answer is the same: "Lord, You know all things, You know that I love you!" The triple-questioned reminder of his own denials, his failures, and his lack of faith showed him again that without Jesus he really could do nothing (John 15:5).

III. FOLLOW CHRIST BY SACRIFICE: John 21:18-19

Jesus spoke to Peter about the manner in which he would die. Jesus was warning Peter that he was going to endure great suffer-

ing in following Jesus. Great love for Jesus will always require great sacrifice. Jesus had already demonstrated that truth by sacrificing His own life on the cross. Those who follow Him must follow no matter what sacrifice they must make.

IV. FOLLOW CHRIST BY FOCUS: John 21:20-23

Peter turned and saw John (the disciple Jesus loved) following them and asked Jesus about him. Jesus responded: "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?" The disciples jumped on that statement and repeated that John would not die, though Jesus did not actually say that. The focus of Jesus was on the commitment of the one He was speaking to. "YOU follow me!" he said. At this moment, as you read, Jesus is interested in whether you will follow or not. Do not look around at family or church leaders. Jesus' message to you is the same as the one to Peter: "YOU FOLLOW ME!"

Wilson is pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be written in English, typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper, and include a return address. News items should be 100-150 words in length. Photos should be 3 1/2 x 5 inches or larger. All photos must be color or black and white. Photos should be submitted by the deadline date.

News items should be submitted to the editor, The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 130, Jackson, MS 39201. Photos should be submitted to the photo editor, The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 130, Jackson, MS 39201.



Photos are subject to editing and may be used in other publications. Photos should be submitted by the deadline date. Photos should be 3 1/2 x 5 inches or larger. All photos must be color or black and white. Photos should be submitted by the deadline date.

Photos that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Photos to remain photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 130, Jackson, MS 39201. FAX: 601/944-1301. Email: baptistrecord@msbpc.org



THE VILLAGE VIEW

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27 - Clinton, MS 39060-0027

(601) 922-2242

e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com - website: www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

Honor Roll of Churches

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received in the financial office of The Baptist Children's Village during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of their designated cash gifts. This evaluation and analysis is known as the "Honor Roll of Churches." During 2002, 500 local churches gave \$1,000.00 or more to the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. According to our records, those "top 500 churches" were:

No.	CHURCH/CITY	2002 GIFTS	No.	CHURCH/CITY	2002 GIFTS	No.	CHURCH/CITY	2002 GIFTS
251	Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison	\$2,008.20	333	Union South Baptist Church, Seminary	\$1,545.00	417	Unity Baptist Church, Picayune	\$1,228.00
252	New Bethel Baptist Church, Carrollton	\$2,008.16	334	Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,540.00	418	Eden Baptist Church, Yazoo City	\$1,221.53
253	Rome Baptist Church, Rome	\$2,007.00	335	Bethany Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,531.22	419	Camp Creek Baptist Church, Guntown	\$1,218.18
254	Williamsburg Baptist Church, Collins	\$2,000.61	336	Galilee Baptist Church, Gloster	\$1,527.00	420	Calvary Baptist Church, Quitman	\$1,215.15
255	Harmony Baptist Church, Louisville	\$1,987.64	337	Tuscola Baptist Church, Lena	\$1,525.00	421	Calvary Baptist Church, Newton	\$1,213.68
256	Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,986.28	338	Trinity Baptist Church, Fulton	\$1,525.00	422	Holly Baptist Church, Corinth	\$1,209.29
257	Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown	\$1,979.17	339	Cato Baptist Church, Mendenhall	\$1,520.88	423	First Baptist Church, Delisle, Pass Chris	\$1,208.00
258	First Baptist Church, Sumrall	\$1,972.25	340	Pine Grove Baptist Church, Picayune	\$1,515.00	424	Standing Pine Baptist Church, Walnut Grove	\$1,201.46
259	Oak Dale Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$1,968.37	341	Mount Olive Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,509.50	425	Liberty Baptist Church, Waynesboro	\$1,200.00
260	New County Line Church, Carthage	\$1,960.25	342	New Hope Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,503.50	426	Union Baptist Church, Nettleton	\$1,200.00
261	Slayden Baptist Church, Lamar	\$1,960.00	343	First Baptist Church, Coffeeville	\$1,500.00	427	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$1,200.00
262	Crane Creek Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$1,958.76	344	Calvary Baptist Church, Corinth	\$1,500.00	428	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Benton	\$1,200.00
263	Sallis Baptist Church, Sallis	\$1,944.85	345	Pope Baptist Church, Pope	\$1,500.00	429	Cumberland Baptist Church, Maben	\$1,200.00
264	Good Hope Baptist Church, Camden	\$1,941.00	346	New Montpelier Baptist Church, Woodland	\$1,500.00	430	Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$1,200.00
265	Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton	\$1,937.32	347	Locust Hill Baptist Church, Blue Springs	\$1,500.00	431	First Baptist Church, Steens	\$1,200.00
266	First Baptist Church, Olive Branch	\$1,934.96	348	Hebron Baptist Church, Bentonia	\$1,497.02	432	First Baptist Church, Fulton	\$1,200.00
267	Neshoba Baptist Church, Union	\$1,919.51	349	First Baptist Church, Raleigh	\$1,497.00	433	Corinth Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,200.00
268	Sebastopol Baptist Church, Sebastopol	\$1,914.35	350	Beulah Baptist Church, Decatur	\$1,494.96	434	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mount Olive	\$1,200.00
269	Sunrise Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,907.74	351	Melrose Baptist Church, Bentonia	\$1,490.00	435	Hillcrest Baptist Church, New Albany	\$1,200.00
270	Calvary Baptist Church, Cleveland	\$1,878.86	352	Oak Hill Baptist Church, Booneville	\$1,489.00	436	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church, Tylertown	\$1,200.00
271	Cairo Baptist Church, Ecru	\$1,876.55	353	Meadow Grove Baptist Church, Brandon	\$1,487.27	437	Hepzibah Baptist Church, Vossburg	\$1,200.00
272	Montrose Baptist Church, Louin	\$1,870.70	354	Harrisville Baptist Church, Harrisville	\$1,476.00	438	Grace Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$1,200.00
273	Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison	\$1,870.00	355	Dixie Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$1,475.00	439	Chaparral Baptist Church, Waynesboro	\$1,200.00
274	Glenfield Baptist Church, New Albany	\$1,866.00	356	Scotland Baptist Church, Winona	\$1,473.63	440	Oloh First Baptist Church, Sumrall	\$1,200.00
275	First Baptist Church, Ita Bena	\$1,862.41	357	Liberty Baptist Church, De Kalb	\$1,470.06	441	Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Louisville	\$1,200.00
276	Central Baptist Church, McComb	\$1,858.18	358	Pinckney Baptist Church, Union	\$1,462.00	442	Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale	\$1,196.87
277	First Baptist Church, Bay St Louis	\$1,852.10	359	Horseshoe Baptist Church, Tchula	\$1,460.00	443	Southway Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,188.33
278	Magee's Creek Baptist Church, Jayess	\$1,845.86	360	First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs	\$1,458.00	444	Ora Baptist Church, Seminary	\$1,187.13
279	Salem Baptist Church, Tylertown	\$1,830.37	361	Southside Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,457.18	445	Straight Bayou Baptist Church, Anguilla	\$1,183.50
280	Friendship Baptist Church, Sturgis	\$1,830.00	362	West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$1,457.00	446	Remus Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,180.60
281	Arbor Grove Baptist Church, Houston	\$1,828.75	363	Ecru Baptist Church, Ecru	\$1,455.00	447	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Newton	\$1,180.50
282	Central Baptist Church, Mc Neill	\$1,819.57	364	Gum Grove Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,453.64	448	Siloam Baptist Church, Meadville	\$1,180.00
283	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Dumas	\$1,800.00	365	Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,450.00	449	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Shubuta	\$1,166.34
284	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	\$1,800.00	366	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Quitman	\$1,450.00	450	Blaine Baptist Church, Sunflower	\$1,164.00
285	First Baptist Church, Glendale, Hattiesburg	\$1,798.32	367	Union Baptist Church, Mize	\$1,441.74	451	First Baptist Church, Belmont	\$1,163.60
286	County Line Baptist Church, Walnut	\$1,792.16	368	Taylor Baptist Church, Taylor	\$1,438.00	452	Ebenezer Baptist Church, Bassfield	\$1,158.02
287	Port Gibson Baptist Church, Port Gibson	\$1,790.00	369	Polkville Baptist Church, Morton	\$1,435.00	453	New Zion Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	\$1,156.49
288	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Gloster	\$1,764.84	370	Fellowship Baptist Church, Ellisville	\$1,422.78	454	Valley Park Baptist Church, Valley Park	\$1,156.19
289	Siloam Baptist Church, Magee	\$1,764.16	371	Pheba Baptist Church, Pheba	\$1,420.00	455	Hope Baptist Church, West Point	\$1,150.00
290	Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo	\$1,763.00	372	Elon Baptist Church, Macon	\$1,415.00	456	Philadelphia Baptist Church, Gore Springs	\$1,138.61
291	Bethel Baptist Church, Poplarville	\$1,759.32	373	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Bentonia	\$1,411.00	457	Airport Baptist Church, Grenada	\$1,131.58
292	Woolmarket Baptist Church, Biloxi	\$1,756.46	374	Goodyear Baptist Church, Picayune	\$1,408.16	458	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Woodland	\$1,131.00
293	West McComb Baptist Church, McComb	\$1,750.65	375	First Baptist Church, Pearl	\$1,402.91	459	Lowery Creek Baptist Church, Seminary	\$1,125.00
294	First Baptist Church, Vardaman	\$1,732.00	376	First Baptist Church, Aberdeen	\$1,401.84	460	Crowder Baptist Church, Crowder	\$1,124.10
295	Pearson Baptist Church, Pearl	\$1,727.00	377	Ramah Baptist Church, Mc Call Creek	\$1,399.97	461	Magnolia Baptist Church, Laurel	\$1,124.00
296	First Baptist Church, Holly Springs	\$1,725.00	378	First Baptist Church, Collinsville	\$1,391.00	462	Leaf River Baptist Church, Forest	\$1,106.47
297	First Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,724.31	379	First Baptist Church, Magee	\$1,390.00	463	First Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$1,103.00
298	Longview Heights Baptist Church, Olive Branch	\$1,717.96	380	County Line Baptist Church, Overt	\$1,385.00	464	Union Baptist Church, Roxie	\$1,100.58
299	Bethsaida Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$1,713.11	381	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Eupora	\$1,381.00	465	Koinonia Baptist Church, Mooreville	\$1,100.00
300	Pineville Baptist Church, Golden	\$1,710.50	382	Furrs Baptist Church, Pontotoc	\$1,379.00	466	Lone Oak Baptist Church, Corinth	\$1,100.00
301	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$1,708.00	383	Faith Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,362.00	467	Bluff Springs Baptist Church, De Kalb	\$1,100.00
302	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,702.67	384	Antioch Baptist Church, Lexington	\$1,358.71	468	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Florence	\$1,100.00
303	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Kosciusko	\$1,700.00	385	Heritage Baptist Church, Lucedale	\$1,348.62	469	Roxie Baptist Church, Roxie	\$1,100.00
304	Hathorn Baptist Church, Columbia	\$1,699.15	386	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Houlika	\$1,348.46	470	Border Springs Baptist Church, Caledonia	\$1,097.00
305	First Baptist Church, Long Beach	\$1,697.00	387	Friendship Baptist Church, Brookhaven	\$1,345.00	471	First Baptist Church, Brooklyn	\$1,095.27
306	Calvary Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$1,690.56	388	Banner Baptist Church, Bruce	\$1,340.00	472	Unity Baptist Church, West	\$1,083.00
307	Navilla Baptist Church, McComb	\$1,689.90	389	Whitesand Baptist Church, Prentiss	\$1,338.00	473	Pittsboro Baptist Church, Pittsboro	\$1,078.67
308	First Baptist Church, Vicksburg	\$1,688.74	390	First Baptist Church, Bruce	\$1,335.00	474	Braxton Baptist Church, Braxton	\$1,075.00
309	First Baptist Church, Grenada	\$1,685.00	391	Immanuel Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	\$1,330.00	475	Oral Baptist Church, Sumrall	\$1,073.00
310	New Salem Baptist Church, Iuka	\$1,679.00	392	First Baptist Church, Escatawpa	\$1,327.80	476	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,072.00
311	New Prospect Baptist Church, Iuka	\$1,673.77	393	Antioch Baptist Church, Hazlehurst	\$1,324.56	477	Red Hill Baptist Church, Perkinston	\$1,068.00
312	Roundaway Baptist Church, Daddssville	\$1,663.00	394	Union Baptist Church, Meridian	\$1,317.76	478	Center Baptist Church, Blue Springs	\$1,057.85
313	First Baptist Church, Greenwood	\$1,657.00	395	Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport	\$1,315.00	479	Bay Springs Baptist Church, Bay Springs	\$1,051.00
314	Bethany Baptist Church, Potts Camp	\$1,656.00	396	First Baptist Church, State Line	\$1,290.76	480	Salem Baptist Church, Golden	\$1,050.00
315	Salem Baptist Church, Raymond	\$1,650.00	397	Perry Baptist Association, New Augusta	\$1,285.00	481	Northside Baptist Church, Lucedale	\$1,041.02
316	Mount Horeb Baptist Church, Collins	\$1,649.77	398	Crenshaw Baptist Church, Crenshaw	\$1,271.28	482	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Calhoun City	\$1,040.00
317	Providence Baptist Church, Cleveland	\$1,649.00	399	West End Baptist Church, West Point	\$1,267.74	483	Hinkle Baptist Church, Rienzi	\$1,039.00
318	First Baptist Church, Biloxi	\$1,646.10	400	County Line Baptist Church, Carthage	\$1,263.86	484	Providence Baptist Church, Tiplersville	\$1,037.00
319	Bethel Baptist Church, Etta	\$1,644.00	401	Bethel Baptist Church, Liberty	\$1,260.00	485	Alexander Memorial Baptist Church, Hollandale	\$1,035.57
320	Gallman Baptist Church, Gallman	\$1,639.17	402	Wellman Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	\$1,259.00	486	Tangipahoa Baptist Church, Summit	\$1,035.06
321	Calvary West Point Baptist Church, West Point	\$1,628.89	403	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Bruce	\$1,257.00	487	First Baptist Church, Rolling Fork	\$1,032.00
322	Hollandale Baptist Church, Hollandale	\$1,625.00	404	Kirkville Baptist Church, Marietta	\$1,254.23	488	Good Hope Baptist Church, Louisville	\$1,027.00
323	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Taylorsville	\$1,620.00	405	Harmony Baptist Church, Greenwood	\$1,250.00	489	Shady Grove Baptist Church, Hazlehurst	\$1,024.76
324	First Baptist Church, Lumberton	\$1,616.12	406	Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,250.00	490	Ethel Baptist Church, Ethel	\$1,020.00
325	First Baptist Church, Lambert	\$1,614.34	407	Beacon Street Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$1,250.00	491	First Baptist Church, Anguilla	\$1,013.65
326	Griffith Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson	\$1,600.00	408	Olive Baptist Church, Lumberton	\$1,246.00	492	Pulaski Baptist Church, Pulaski	\$1,013.17
327	Beulah Baptist Church, Magee	\$1,596.29	409	DeKalb Baptist Church, De Kalb	\$1,245.00	493	Lebanon Baptist Church, Ripley	\$1,012.19
328	First Baptist Church, Winona	\$1,586.76	410	Calvary Baptist Church, Holly Springs	\$1,244.00	494	Bradford Chapel Baptist Church, Gore Springs	\$1,009.48
329	South Crossroads Baptist Church, Iuka	\$1,580.00	411	Success Baptist Church, Saucier	\$1,243.06	495	Jones Chapel Baptist Church, Nettleton	\$1,000.00
330	Smithville Baptist Church, Smithville	\$1,561.00	412	Thompson Baptist Church, Smithdale	\$1,235.00	496	Ocobla Baptist Church, Philadelphia	\$1,000.00
331	First Baptist Church, Okolona	\$1,551.00	413	West Ripley Baptist Church, Ripley	\$1,235.00	497	Cornersville Baptist Church, Potts Camp	\$1,000.00
332	First Baptist Church, New Augusta	\$1,550.00	414	First Baptist Church, Eudora, Hernando	\$1,233.45	498	Enon Baptist Church, Jayess	\$1,000.00
			415	Corinth Baptist Church, Magee	\$1,231.46	499	Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville	\$1,000.00
			416	New Hope Baptist Church, Foxworth	\$1,230.00	500	Arcola Baptist Church, Arcola	\$1,000.00

LifeWay sees growth in sluggish economy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWay Christian Resources stands to see a 3.4% increase in overall revenue for 2003, providing employees continue to perform well in a bleak economy, Ted Warren told trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention entity Feb. 10 in Nashville.

LifeWay's executive vice president and chief operating officer said revenues would still fall more than \$18 million short of the budget for the fiscal year of Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, with revenues down

across the board within LifeWay's business units due to the sluggish national economy. Still, Warren said, each division controlled expenses well so far this fiscal year. The international department has been especially hard hit, with revenues deeply affected by the continuing economic crises throughout many countries in South America, Warren said.

"Companies have been dealing for years with ways to deal with the fluctuation in foreign economies and that is one of the challenges we face as well," Warren said.

Warren also reported that the market value of LifeWay's retirement trust fund has dipped below its future payout obligation, but LifeWay plans to designate reserve funds to make up the current deficit. The deficit is due to the significant decline in the stock market during the last three years, he said.

Trustees approved a recommendation authorizing an increase in the price of all dated and undated Sunday School curriculum by as much as 3.7%, effective in the spring of 2004. The actual price and percentage increase, if any, will be determined in the summer of 2003.

Ken Stephens, vice president of Broadman & Holman Publishing, told trustees the Holman Christian Standard Bible(r) is progressing on schedule.

"The entire Old Testament is all the way through the third and final draft, and the final manuscript is due July 1," he said. "The completed Bible will be available in April 2004."

B&H's best-sellers in 2002, Stephens said, included the Oliver North novel, *Mission Compromised*, and three Beth Moore books, *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things*, *Praying God's Word*, and *Jesus the One and Only*.

New releases for 2003 include *Faith in God & Generals*, a Civil War book that complements a major motion picture,

Gods and Generals, which will open Feb. 21; *Beloved Disciple* by Beth Moore; *Jericho Sanction*, Oliver North's second novel with B&H; *Covenant Marriage* by Gary Chapman; and *The Kingdom Focused Church* by Gene Mims.

Despite a national economic slowdown, Mark Scott, vice president of the LifeWay Christian Stores division, reported a solid performance in the first quarter of 2003. He said LifeWay's Christmas sales were strong despite the holiday season being billed as one of the worst in 32 years for retailers.

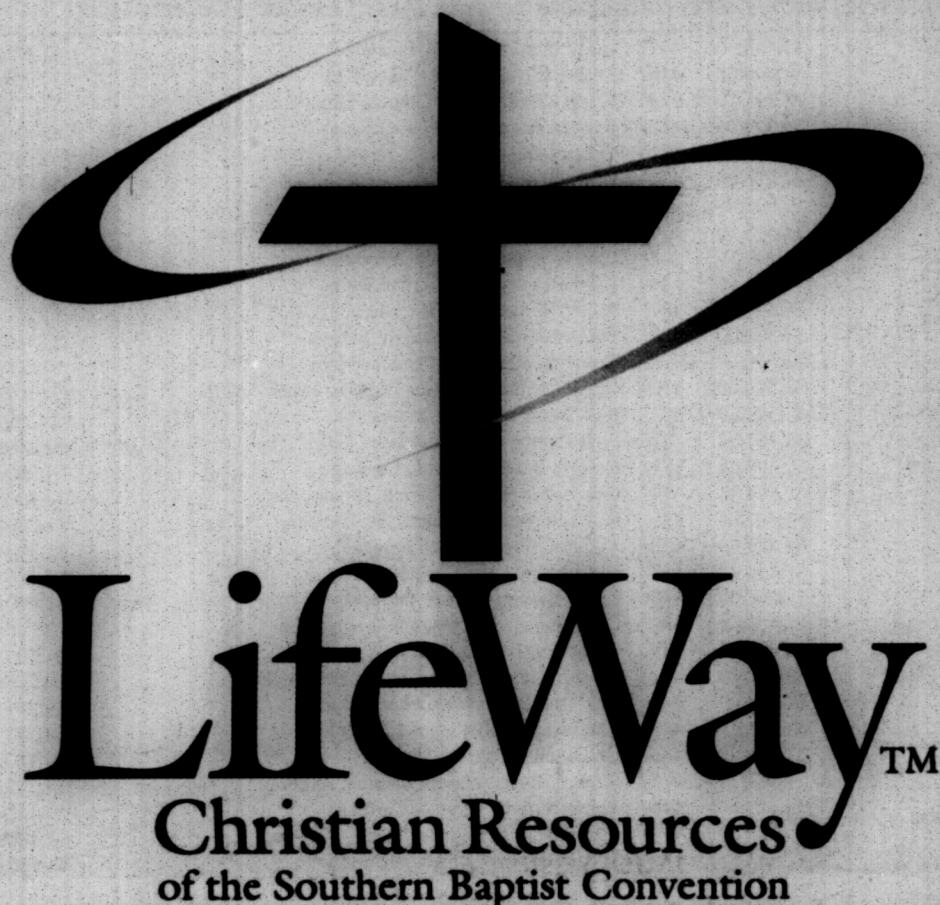
The number of LifeWay stores has reached 115, with two more planned in 2003, Scott said, reporting that the first of two phases of a chain-wide system to improve point-of-sale business processes is complete.

Mike Arrington, vice president of corporate affairs, reported that a committee is continuing to study water availability for proposed developments at the LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico.

The capital resource development department raised more than \$748,000 in 2002, with plans for further fundraising in 2003. Arrington said one campaign will seek to honor denominational leaders by naming rooms at both conference centers after them.

Attendance at both the Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta conference centers should increase when renovations are completed, Arrington said. Improvements include completion of year-round youth facilities and multi-level meeting spaces at Glorieta.

Tim Vineyard, vice president of the technology division, said more than 7.6 million Web user sessions were recorded in the first quarter of 2003, a growth of 156% from the previous quarter. He said 350,000 of those were first-time users of the newly redesigned LifeWay.com site, launched in October.



Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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VFK UR OVCK LFAN
AURG, HRA LO EN CFAN
AUR FRZA ANBFO, AUVA
C GVP JMRVTU AURMR
VHON: SNM AURMRSNMR
TVGR C SNMAU.
GVMY NFR: AUCMAP-
RCEUA

Clue: H=L
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Two: Twenty-Six

Baptist Alliance president sees 'sin on every hand'

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The United States undoubtedly has been blessed supernaturally with unrivaled prosperity and worldwide influence, the president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and one of Asia's leading evangelists told staff members of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) on Feb. 12.

Nevertheless, there remains "sin on every hand" both in the United States and internationally, said South Korean pastor Billy Kim, and fervent prayer is likely the only solution.

"Christians of this nation must get on their knees [and pray] that God would bring revival to this nation," he said. "There's no other answer in our world today. We need men of God and women to pray that God will give wisdom to President Bush and all of his staff members to solve the problems that we face today."

Kim, pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Seoul, was guest speaker during a chapel service at NAMB.

In his message, Kim urged staff to, "Pray for your country, pray for your president, pray for your military. Without prayer there would be no revival."

He noted the role that prayer has come to take in the Korean

churches, where daily 5 a.m. prayer meetings are routine.

"Today we organize instead of agonize on our knees before God," he said.

Even Korean Baptists such as himself can learn from other Korean Christians, he said, such as David Yonggi Cho, pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul. While Kim said he prays about one hour each day, Cho prays five hours a day — and much of his congregation is similarly committed.

"I have no argument when a man prays five hours a day. Whether he's uneducated or educated, God will begin to use that person," Kim said.

Christians in Korea even now are lifting up the United States in prayer during a period when both nations are facing the prospect of war, the pastor said.

"Recently, many anti-American demonstrations took place in Seoul, so some of us got together, 100,000 met at the

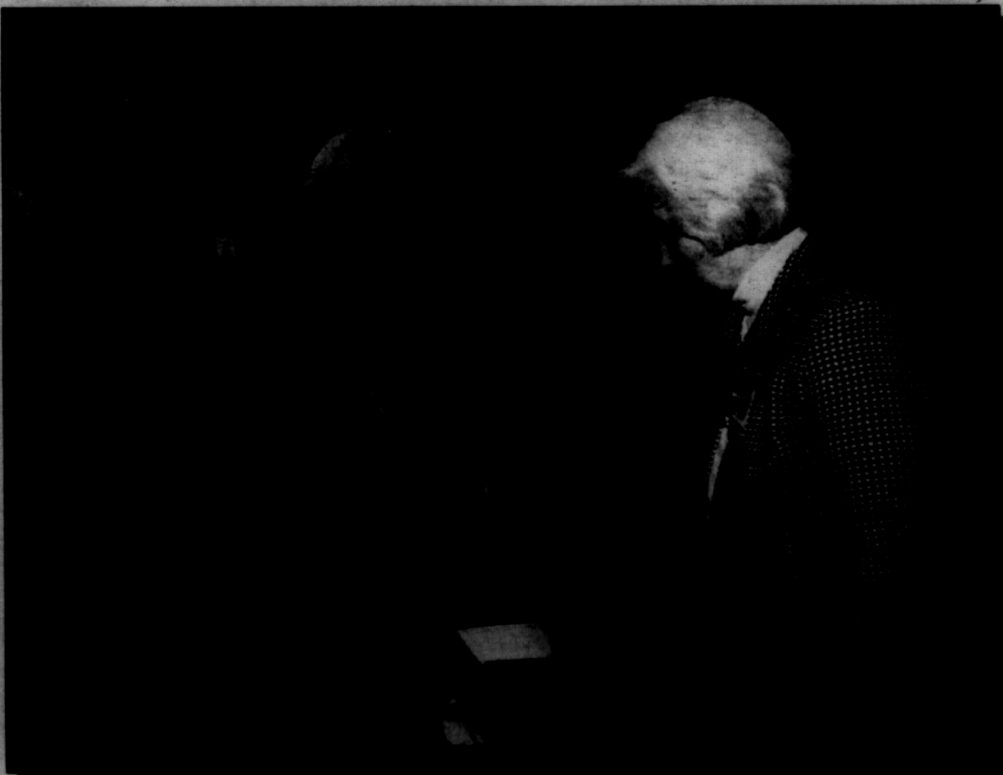
Seoul City Plaza, and we prayed for America," Kim said.

"We had a pro-America rally. That was a wonderful time for our people to get together, united, praying for the United States as well as South Korea."

He also sought prayer for the

nation of South Korea as tensions escalate with North Korea.

"You know, we live in a terrible world," Kim said. "We don't know what's going to happen, but I am sure who holds the future. It's the mighty hand of God."



POWER OF PRAYER — Staff of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) prayed for Billy Kim (kneeling), president of the Baptist World Alliance and a prominent Korean pastor, during a chapel service Feb. 12 at NAMB headquarters in suburban Atlanta. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)